



State Library of Massachusetts - Special Collections Department

Ms. Coll. 109

David C. Harrison Papers, 1963-1975: Guide

COLLECTION SUMMARY

Creator: Harrison, David C., 1937-.

Call Number: Ms. Coll. 109

Extent: 4 boxes (2 linear feet)

Preferred Citation Style: *Folder Title, Box Number #.* David C. Harrison Papers. State Library of Massachusetts Special Collections.

About This Finding Aid: Description based on DACS.

Provenance: Gift of David C. Harrison, 1997.

Processed by: Finding aid prepared by Paula Kaczor, 1998; updated by Abigail Cramer, 2012.

Abstract: This collection documents Harrison's work as a city planner with the Boston Redevelopment Authority and his involvement with the "General Plan for the City of Boston & the Regional Core."

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection documents Harrison's career in urban planning and development in Boston. The materials date from 1963 to 1975. The collection includes records of the Boston Harbor Islands Commission, the Commission's Conference on the Future of the Islands, Waters, and Shoreline of Boston Harbor, records of 1975 World Freedom Fair, Inc., general Boston Redevelopment Authority records, and records from Harrison's time at Peat, Marwick, Livingston & Co.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

David C. Harrison was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on December 26, 1937. He attended public elementary school in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania and graduated from Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts, in 1955. He graduated cum laude from Harvard College in 1959 with an A.B. in American History and received his J.D. from Harvard Law School in 1963. Harrison worked as a city planner in the city planning department of the Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA) from 1964 to 1968. The BRA is responsible for the planning and zoning functions as well as economic and industrial development of the city of Boston. While Harrison was a city planner with the BRA, he worked on the General Plan for the City of Boston & the Regional Core (1965 to 1975).

During the years 1966 to 1968, Harrison was assigned by the BRA to work with the 1975 World Freedom Fair, Inc., or Freedom 75, a nonprofit corporation formed with the intention of bringing a world's fair to Boston in celebration of the country's bicentennial and Boston's development program. Headed by the former head of the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce, Gilbert Hood, Freedom 75 aimed to construct the primary site of the exposition at Columbia Point (expanded by landfill) as well as on Thompson Island in Boston Harbor. The fair planners hoped to build a prototype city of tomorrow, with elements such as public transportation, housing as well as cultural, educational and research facilities. The fair was to be held from April to October of 1975. As a part of his work with Freedom 75, Harrison brought the Freedom 75 proposal to a range of public, private, and nonprofit local and regional groups to solicit support. One such organization was the Massachusetts Legislative Study Commission on the Islands, Waters, and Shoreline of Boston Harbor (or Boston Harbor Islands Commission). Harrison attributed the failure of the Freedom 75 proposal to a lack of regional consensus.

In 1968, Harrison became a consultant with the Civil Systems Division of Peat, Marwick, Livingston & Co. (PML, later Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co.). His projects with PML dealt with issues of highway safety, criminal justice, national environmental policy, and new housing and community development. He worked on the Model Cities (Great Society) Program. Also at PML, he served as a consultant to the Boston Harbor Islands Commission. Harrison's work with the Commission was an extension of his previous work with the BRA and Freedom 75. He planned and recruited participants for the Conference on the Future of the Islands, Waters, and Shoreline of Boston Harbor held in Boston on June 24th and 25th, 1969. Following his work with PML, Harrison worked from 1970 to 1979 for the New England River Basins Commission, where he headed the Connecticut River Basins Program.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Arrangement

The papers are arranged in 6 series as follows:

Series I. Boston Harbor Islands Commission, 1967-1970

Series II. Boston Harbor Islands Commission Conference, 1968-1969

Series III. 1975 World Freedom Fair, Inc., 1965-1975

Series IV. Boston Redevelopment Authority, 1964-1966

Series V. Peat, Marwick, Livingston & Co., 1968-1970

Series VI. Other Projects, 1963-1970

The original order of the materials when donated by Harrison has been maintained.

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research during the Special Collections Department's regular hours.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use

Copyright restrictions may apply. Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be discussed with Special Collections staff.

Languages and Scripts

The materials are entirely in English.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of David C. Harrison, 1997.

Detailed Series Description and Container List

Series I: Boston Harbor Islands Commission, 1967-1970

Scope and Content

This series documents Harrison's involvement with the Boston Harbor Islands Commission. The series includes newspaper clippings, press releases, and an attendance list relating to a tour of the Boston Harbor and presentation by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Also included is the "Third and Final Report of the Special Commission on the Boston Harbor Islands" (December, 1970), which presents the outcome of the Commission's study and the Conference on the Future of the Islands, Waters, and Shoreline of Boston Harbor.

Arrangement

This series is arranged in its original order (alphabetically by subject).

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title	Date
1	1	Attendance List, Tour of Harbor and M.I.T. Presentation	July 27, 1967
1	2	Newspaper Clippings and Press Releases	1967-1969
1	3	"Third and Final Report of the Special Commission"	Dec., 1970

Series II: Boston Harbor Islands Commission Conference, 1968-1969**Scope and Content**

This series documents the Boston Harbor Islands Commission Conference on the Future of the Islands, Waters, and Shoreline of Boston Harbor. This series includes attendance lists, a program, and transcripts of the conference. The transcripts consist of one transcript for each day's proceedings (addresses and presentations) and individual transcripts for the various workshops. This series also includes audio cassettes of the Conference proceedings.

Arrangement

This series is arranged in its original order (chronologically).

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title	Date
1	4	Proposal for Assistance in Sponsoring a Symposium on the Future Use of Boston Harbor	July 27, 1968
1	5	Attendance	June 24-25, 1969
1	6	Program	June 24-25, 1969
4	Tape 1	"Keynote: Kennedy Address, Moakley Address, S. Jacks"	[June 24, 1969]
1	7	Transcript	June 24, 1969
1	8	Transcript: Workshop 1: Pollution	June 24, 1969
1	9	Transcript: Workshop 2: Transportation	June 24, 1969
1	10	Transcript: Workshop 3: Recreation	June 24, 1969
1	11	Transcript: Workshop 4: Ecology/Oceanology	June 24, 1969

1	12	Transcript: Workshop 5: Community Development	June 24, 1969
4	Tape 2	"Tuesday Workshop Reports"	[June 24, 1969]
4	Tapes 5-7	Boston Harbor Islands Commission Conference	[June 24-25, 1969]
4	Tape 3	"Donahue Address"	[June 25, 1969]
2	13	Transcript	June 25, 1969
2	14	Transcript: Workshop 1: Role of Private Industries	June 25, 1969
2	15	Transcript: Workshop 2: Role of Financial Institutions and Real Estate Development	June 25, 1969
2	16	Transcript: Workshop 3: The Federal Role	June 25, 1969
2	17	Transcript: Workshops 4 and 5: The Role of the Commonwealth	June 25, 1969
4	Tape 4	"Pier 4 Speeches and Closing Remarks"	[June 25, 1969]

Series III: 1975 World Freedom Fair, Inc., 1965-1975

Scope and Content

This series documents Harrison's involvement through the Boston Redevelopment Association with the 1975 World Freedom Fair, Inc. It includes weekly reports, memoranda, correspondence, and notes. Also included are reports containing proposed plans and ideas for the fair, organizational charts, newspaper clippings, and publicity materials.

Arrangement

This series is arranged in its original order.

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title	Date
2	18	Weekly Reports	Sept. 1966- Mar. 1967
2	19	Correspondence	June, 1966- Sept. 1967
2	20	Memoranda	undated, 1963, 1966-1967
2	21	Officers and Directors	Nov., 1966

2	22	Agenda and Minutes, Various Committees	July, 1966- Feb., 1967
2	23	Notes	Feb. 1966-1967
2	24	World Fair Project Draft of Boston Redevelopment Authority Annual Report	Feb. 24, 1967
2	25	Federal Participation in 1975 National Bicentennial in Boston, Guide to Steps (Boston Redevelopment Authority)	Aug., 1965
2	26	Policies Plan for an International Exposition	Sept., 1965
2	27	Historical Timeline New England, 1620-1787 compiled by Harrison	Sept., 1965
2	28	Work Program	Dec., 1965
2	29	Timeline and Projected Expenditures	1966-1967
2	30	Organizational Charts	Feb., 1967
2	31	U.S. Bicentennial Experimental Prototype Urban Community in Dorchester Bay-Ideas	Feb. 7, 1967
2	32	Plan for the U.S. Bicentennial World Exhibition, Boston, Mass.	Sept. 30, 1966, Apr.-Oct., 1975
2	33	U.S. Bicentennial New Town Site Preparation-State and Local Public Agencies	Mar. 24, 1967
2	34	Project Outline: 1975 U.S. Bicentennial/Experimental Prototype Urban Community	June 12, 1967
2	35-38	1975 World Freedom Fair, Inc. Assorted Legal Papers (3 folders)	undated, 1963, 1967
2	39	Freedom 75 Pamphlet	May, 1966
2	40	Newspaper Clippings	June, 1967
2	41	Various Preparatory Materials	1964, 1966- 1967

Series IV: Boston Redevelopment Authority, 1964-1966

Scope and Content

This series documents Harrison's work with the Boston Redevelopment Authority, in particular reports about the General Plan for Boston.

Arrangement

This series is arranged in its original order.

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title	Date
3	42-43	General Plan for Boston (2 folders)	1964, 1966
3	44	Boston Development Program	1966

Series V: Peat, Marwick, Livingston & Co., 1968-1970

Scope and Content

This series documents Harrison's projects while working for Peat, Marwick, Livingston & Co. This series includes materials from urban planning projects (like the European New Communities Tour), materials from the Coastal Lands and Waters of New England Conference, and newspaper clippings about Harrison's participation in Rhode Island's Earth Day celebration in 1970.

Arrangement

This series is arranged in its original order.

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title	Date
3	45	European New Communities Tour	Nov. 4, 1968
3	46	Bibliography on New Community Development and Related Subjects	Nov. 21, 1968
3	47	Excerpt from Congressional Record	Dec. 4, 1969
3	48	Conference, Coastal Lands and Waters of New England	1970
3	49	Earth Day, Rhode Island: Newspaper Clippings	Apr. 22, 1970

Series VI: Other Projects, 1963-1970

Scope and Content

This series documents others of Harrison's projects and includes papers Harrison wrote dealing with urban planning and bicycle safety in the city of Cambridge.

Arrangement

This series is arranged in its original order (alphabetical by title).

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title	Date
3	50	Assorted Legal and Planning Papers	1963
3	51	Cambridge Bicycle Safety Subcommittee-Project Management	Dec. 23, 1969
3	52	Comment on Proposed Legislation (Draft)	Jan. 26, 1970